

Changes/Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 30 of page 2 of the specification with the following paragraph:

-- This sole is built up inter alia from a carrier 2 of metal or a metal alloy which supports an outer layer 3. The sole may further comprise an anodized layer, in which case the anodized layer supports the outer layer 3. This outer layer 3 forms a sliding or contact layer 3 of the sole 1. Said outer layer 3 is formed from a polymer material, in this example on the basis of polysilicate which was provided in a sol-gel process. The main chain or backbone of the polymer is inorganic; any lateral chains or branches may be organic, if so desired. The outer layer 3 is provided with markings in the form of decorative lines 4 and characters 5. The latter may form, for example, a type indication. --